

2 over hill scrub on the edge of the rift valley escarpment between Kombolcha and Bati (east of Dessie) on 13 July 1974.

1 over the Menegesha Forest on 1 March 1975

1 in the Awash National Park on 28 March 1975.

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WAHLBERG'S EAGLE IN NORTHEASTERN AFRICA AND THE FIRST RECORD FOR SOMALIA *Aquila wahlbergi* has been generally considered a trans-equatorial migrant breeding mainly south of the equator and wintering in unknown localities, possibly in the south Sudan (Brown 1970, Steyn 1973). Recently, however, it has been recorded quite commonly from Ethiopia during the season (August to January) when it is breeding in Kenya and further south, and has been recorded breeding in Addis Ababa (Vittery 1978). In East Africa and southern Africa it is a bird of *Combretum* or *Acacia* savannas, but the nest described by Vittery was at over 2500 m a.s.l. in eucalyptus at the edge of a large town, a habitat entirely different from the normal East African one. Several other nests have been reported in Addis (Simkin, pers. comm.) and elsewhere in Ethiopia, but details have not been recorded.

Urban & Brown (1971) regarded the occurrence of Wahlberg's Eagle in Ethiopia as uncertain, though it had been recorded from the Awash Park. In 1975 I saw two in Tigray Region, one in the Giba River Valley about 30 km west of Makelle, the other in farmland near Dugum. Both were in typical habitat of *Acacia-Combretum* savanna and both could have been breeding in the area in October - November. In 1975 the nest in the Embassy compound at Addis Ababa was unoccupied; it had reared a young bird successfully in 1974, and probably on other occasions, but there was no sign of activity in January 1976 (Vittery 1978, pers. obs.).

Addis Ababa is approximately 9°N. and the localities mentioned in Tigray between 13° and 14°N., so that if, in fact, these eagles were breeding in the latter locality, they would be the furthest north breeding records for the species. There are other records, from Zaria, Nigeria (P. Ward, pers. comm.) in June, but there is the possibility that identity may have been confused in this case. However, it appears that Wahlberg's Eagle may be a not uncommon breeder north of the equator.

According to Archer & Godman (1937) Wahlberg's Eagle is not recorded from Somalia. Nevertheless, while in detention at Hargeisa during February 1977 I several times saw an undoubted example of this species soaring over the Hargeisa Club, which is situated in a strip of *Acacia tortilis* woodland bordering a dry river bed (a typical site for a breeding pair). There could be no reasonable doubt of its identity as, on more than one occasion, I could compare it in the air with Tawny Eagles *A. rapax*, and once with what was almost certainly a Lesser Spotted Eagle *A. pomarina*, which would also be a new record for Somalia.

Whether Wahlberg's Eagle has always been present in these localities but never noticed or collected, or whether it is changing its habits and becoming more common as a breeding bird in the northern tropics, is obscure. The case seems analogous to the recent re-discovery of the Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* as a breeding bird in Cape Province, South Africa, after being overlooked for many years.

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WATTLED PLOVER IN CENTRAL TANZANIA The patchy distribution of the Wattled Plover *Vanellus senegallus* in Tanzania has recently been described by Reynolds (1977), Beesley (1977) and Dowsett (1977). I have two records of this bird on the Ilinde *mbuga* (5°57'S., 35°32'E.) which is 35 km north-west of Dodoma in central Tanzania. This *mbuga* is in a sparsely populated part of the central plateau where there is little human disturbance. As a result it holds a highly diverse avifauna especially during the rains, when about 100 species can regularly be seen in a single day. This *mbuga*, at an altitude of 975 m, is 8 km long and has a maximum width of 2 km. It is best approached from the Dodoma - Bahi road at Kilometre 35, along the track past the Msembeta *mbuga*.

The first sighting was of a solitary male (12.2.56) and the second was of two birds (27.1.57, sex not recorded). On both occasions large parts of the *mbuga* were under water and there were several Crowned Lapwings *V. coronatus* and a few Blacksmith Plovers *V. armatus* in the immediate vicinity. Several visits were made to this locality in the dry season when the black-cotton soil of the floor of the *mbuga* was dry and hard. No plovers of any species were seen on these occasions.

Both *coronatus* and *armatus* occur throughout the year in the Bahi swamp (40 km SW of Ilinde; 775 m) and in the Makutapora swamp (25 km E of Ilinde; 1100 m) and presumably breed. In neither place have I seen *senegallus* although it might well breed in such habitats where permanent water is present in most years. The Wattled Plover appears to require wet environments more than many other plovers, which perhaps accounts for the occasional use of mud in its nest (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1957). Its occurrence in Ilinde and in the paddy fields around Tabora (Reynolds 1968), where it is a rainy-season migrant, are comparable.

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